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February 23, 1976

NESHAPS INVESTIGATION

GAF Corporation
Building Products Division
9215 Riverview Drive
St. Louis, Missouri

An inspection tour was made of the GAF Corporation, Building Products Division, at 9:40 a.m., February 4, 1976, by James Waymire and Richard Knapp of the City of St. Louis, Division of Air Pollution Control, Department of Public Safety, and William H. Longston, Surveillance and Analysis Division, Environmental Protection Agency. Plant personnel contacted were G. Robert Reed, Plant Engineer, and William Neal, Personnel Manager.

Process Description

The GAF Corporation produces mineral fiber products for siding, baffles in cooling towers, and other similar uses. Asbestos usage is estimated at 4,850 tons annually.

Although each product varies in composition, a typical batch composition would be the same as follows:

1,500 pounds cement
300 pounds recycled scrap
400 pounds limestone
300 pounds asbestos

These dry ingredients are dumped into the top of a mixer with water and mixed to form a slurry. A thin felt-like layer of this mixture is obtained by flooding the slurry onto one of two machines which are similar to rotary vacuum filters. The layers produced are formed into either flat (Machine No. 7) or corrugated (Machine No. 1) sheets. The sheets are then air dried, trimmed to standard size, and packaged for shipment.

Control Devices

All controlled emissions exhaust through one baghouse. This unit is a Wheelabrator No. 30-R, Model No. 112-CK, 5-compartment baghouse, with each compartment containing 44 (5 X 12 inch) tube bags.

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Exhausts feeding into this system include two mixing lines, conveyors, and a scrap material pulverizer. At the time of this inspection, only one line was in operation and the scrap pulverizer was being overhauled.

There are four cutting units which handle asbestos-cement products. Three dry saws exhaust into two small baghouses which, in turn, vent back into the work area. A single wet cutter saw is currently on lease but is expected to be returned within the next few months.

Discussion of Compliance Status

Asbestos dumping into the mixer was observed both at the mixer hopper and at the baghouse outlet. A small amount of dust puffed from the top of the mixer as asbestos was added. Since asbestos is pre-moistened to suppress dusting, it was concluded that visible dust was limestone. No visible emissions could be detected from the baghouse exhaust.

On the basis of the equipment running at the time of this inspection, the facility was determined to be in compliance. However, since the scrap pulverizer undoubtedly contributes the majority of the emissions to the baghouse, no facility compliance determination will be made until a reinspection can be scheduled. This reinspection will be scheduled for spring 1976.

Recommendations

It is recommended that no action be taken concerning this facility until a reinspection with all equipment operating can be scheduled.

William T. Longston — William A. Spratlin

LONGSTON, Leader, Inspection Unit — SPRATLIN, Chief, Air Section